

District of Metchosin

Minutes

**Environmental Advisory Select Committee**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.**

Council Chambers

Metchosin Municipal Hall

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**Present:** Bill Cave, Garry Fletcher, Councillor Steve Gray (Council Liaison), Anna Hall, Merrilee Hoen, Andy MacKinnon (Recorder), Ric Perron, Erin Van de Water

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

**1. Agenda, Additions, Approval**

Addition: presentation by Jennifer Tynan and Jochen Moehr on Spongy Moth.

**Moved and Seconded** by Ric & Bill that the Committee approve the agenda as amended.

**Carried**

**2. Presentations**

A presentation about Spongy Moth spraying, by Jennifer Tynan (Communities United for Clean Air) and Jochen Moehr. Jennifer described the history of Spongy Moth spraying, beginning in the 1970s. Spraying Foray 48B, a mixture of the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* variety *kurstaki* (Btk) and undisclosed chemicals (some of which are likely carcinogens). This year, there's no spraying in BC for Spongy Moth. Jennifer described her concerns about effects of spraying on human health. Jochen spoke more about the effects on insects: Spongy Moth is rare in BC and not established; Foray 48B is not specific to Spongy Moth, but affects other lepidopterans; and the spraying should be stopped. Anna pointed out that this spraying is close to habitat for Southern Resident Killer Whales, and so there's concern about carcinogens in the mix. She also expressed concerns about cascading effects in ecosystems: for example, birds eating poisoned insects could be immune-compromised and so more susceptible to diseases such as avian flu. MEASC members expressed their concern about this issue and encourage Council to take action.

**3. Public Participation**

Metchosin resident Karine Bordua is concerned about the effects of spraying for Spongy Moth on other species, water supply, human health.

**4. Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved and Seconded** by Steve and Ric that the Committee adopt the minutes of the Environmental Advisory Select Committee meeting held February 25, 2025.

**Carried**

**5. Receipt of Minutes**

- a) Parks & Trails Advisory Select Committee, February 18, 2025
- b) Committee of the Whole, March 10, 2025

**Moved and Seconded** by Merilee and Erin that the Committee receive these minutes.

**Carried**

**6. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) Spongy Moth Spraying Program**

**Moved and Seconded** by Andy and Bill that MEASC recommends that Council invite Jennifer and Jochen to make this presentation to Council. We further recommend that Council consider bringing this issue to AVICC and UBCM.

**Carried**

**b) Local Biodiversity and Natural Assets Plan**

Steve recounted the history of the development of this plan. CRD is also working on a Biodiversity Plan. Steve will incorporate edits from Merilee and Andy, and others. Andy has spoken with Staff at the Conservation Data Centre, and they're keen to provide us with data, but we'll need GIS capabilities.

**Moved and Seconded** by Erin and Garry that Steve revise the document and circulate the revised document. He'll also speak with the CAO about developing municipal GIS capabilities (or finding funding to contract the work).

**Carried**

**c) Race Rock Ecological Reserve**

Garry's still trying to find out whether Race Rocks is in Metchosin. He'll report back at our April meeting.

**d) Environmental Groups in Metchosin, Project Criteria and Student Support**

Merilee is waiting to hear back from Nancy Shackelford (UVic, Restoration of Natural Systems) about Project Criteria. Discussion also about other Departments at UVic (e.g., Geography) or other institutions (Camosun College, Environmental Tech, or Royal Roads University).

**7. Reports**

**a) Chair's Verbal Report**

None.

**b) Council Liaison Verbal Report**

CRD has put out a strategy for the water system: comments welcomed. Scia'new were paying retail rate for water, while Metchosin was paying wholesale, but Scia'new are now paying wholesale rate also. Metchosin Biodiversity Project, Metchosin Foundation, and Bilston Watershed have partnered with UVic Environmental Law Centre to review Metchosin Bylaws. Climate Action Plan, Steve will bring materials to our next MEASC meeting.

**8. Correspondence**

None.

**9. Other Business**

None.

**10. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

**Moved and Seconded** by Erin and Anna that the Committee adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

**Carried**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 (Earth Day) at 7:00 p.m.